

(b) and (c). Optical Fibre Cable has been inducted to a large extent in Junction Network and approximately 979 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in inter exchange Network of Delhi. Plans have been drawn to induct Optical Fibre Cable in Subscriber local loop also. During the current year 190 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in the network.

Expansion of Exchanges in Kerala

4153. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to expand the telephone exchanges in North Wynad of Kerala which is the most backward, hilly and tribal area;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start new telephone exchanges at Pariya and Valad in North Wynad; and

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All the six exchanges in North Wynad namely Mananthody, Panamaram, Thalapaoya, Vellamunda, Karthikulam and Kordome are planned to be expanded during 1997-98. The exchange at Mnanthody will be expanded in 1996-97 also.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to start a new telephone exchange at Periya. However, a 256P C-DOT electronic telephone exchange has been planned at Valad during the year 1997-98.

Intra-City Radio Connectivity

4154. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted the intra-city radio or microwave connectivity for computer data, and/or voice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the frequency band which has been or likely to be allowed to common users and upto what maximum and minimum distance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have granted licences for inter-city computer connectivity in various frequency bands, like 300 MHz and 2.4 GHz bands.

(c) The requirements of users can be considered on case by case basis depending on their needs. The distance for such operations would depend on various technical propagational factors.

Telephone Facilities in Gujarat

4155. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that rural areas of Gujarat lack sufficient telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any demand/scheme/proposal for opening of Telephone Exchange in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Government is aware that there is scope for improvement in telephone facilities in rural areas of Gujarat. However Gujarat has about 66% villages covered with Village Public Telephones (VPTs)

(c) and (d). The proposals based upon the demand for opening Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat for 1996-97 are enclosed in the Statement.

(e) The Government is taking all the necessary steps to improve the telephone facilities and opening new Telephone Exchanges wherever feasible on the basis of justified demands.

STATEMENT

*Details of Rural Automatic Exchanges
Planned in Gujarat Circle
During 96-97*

S.No.	Location	District
1	2	3
1.	Sachana	Ahmedabad
2.	Sonara	"
3.	Galudan	"
4.	Vavera	Amreli
5.	Bhader	"
6.	Chamardi	"
7.	Rustampura	Baroda
8.	Jhagadia (GIDC)	Bharuch
9.	Paguthan	"
10.	Ikher	"
11.	Sisdara	"
12.	Gajera	"
13.	Varedia	"
14.	Devpar	Bhuj
15.	Vadasar	"